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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,444	06/04/2001	Helmar-Steffen Gehrke	10191/1847	4385

7590 01/11/2006
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New York, NY 10004

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIMNHUNG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2677

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/873,444

Applicant(s)

GEHRKE ET AL.

Examiner

Kimnhung Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed on 10/20/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. The claims 1, 3-10 are pending. The examination results are as following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al. (US 6,373,472).

Regarding claim 1, Palalau et al. discloses in figure 1 that a method for allocating operating control functions (see driver control interface controls the values of features group switches in a vehicle, see figure 1) to operating communications controls of an electronic which is capable of executing functions of a plurality of electronic devices as switchable functions (see a plurality of features of group switches are located on a steering wheel, see abstract), the method comprising a predetermined number of operator controls (30, including 30a-30c) assigned to respective operating functions of each of the device (see figs 4-6, for example, where controls 30a and 30c are used to control various functions for various devices, volume, temperature, speed etc.); and selecting a device type (see switches 28) to be controlled by the operator controls among various device type (audio, climate, navigation...), the operating functions of the operator controls being changed corresponding to the selection.

However, Palalau et al. does not disclose expressly the operator controls using at least a play symbols of a double arrow left, and a double arrow right in figs 4-6.

Palalau et al. discloses another embodiment in figs. 9a-9c, the touch screen 32 having operator control using the play symbols of a double arrow left, and a double arrow right.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have by using the play symbols of a double arrow left, and a double arrow right in figs. 9a-9c as taught by Palalau et al. into the operator control system of figs 4-6 of Palalau et al. because this would provide to the user the information more easier from left to right in the display.

Regarding claims 3-4, Palalau et al. discloses in figs. 4-6, a operator control system as discussed above, however, Palalau et al. does not expressly disclose the type of device include the type of a telephone, the electronic devices are devices in motor vehicle luxury feature electronic.

Palalau et al. discloses another embodiment in figs. 9a-9c, the display screen 32 having the type of a telephone (see fig. 9b).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the type of device include the type of a telephone of figs. 9a-9c as taught by Palalau et al. into the operator control system of figs 4-6 of Palalau et al. because this would provide to the user the sounds at distance of anyone to get information, and therefore, the electronic devices are devices in motor vehicle luxury feature electronic.

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Regarding claim 5, Palalau et al. discloses in figure 1, the control system comprising a plurality of operator controls (30, including 30a, 30b, 30c) a switching application of the control system among various device types to be controlled, wherein operating functions for indicating the type of device to be controlled and corresponding operating function parameters.

Regarding claims 6-7, Palalau et al. discloses that the control system is an operating console at least partially integrated on to a steering wheel (see abstract, see figure 1, see groups of switches 28a-28f located on the steering wheel), and a selection switch for selecting a device type to be controlled.

4. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al (US 6,373,472) in view of Trovato et al. (US 6,445,306).

Palalau et al. discloses that the display (22) is an alphanumeric display for displaying in text form the selected type of the device to be controlled (see figures 7-8).

However, Palalau et al. does not disclose that the selection switch is a rotary control with a plurality of selection settings corresponding to a plurality of devices.

Trovato et al. discloses in figure 1, and 2A-2C that a control is rotatable and to control functions of the devices (see rotary switch of selection 105, see col. 4, lines 14-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the using of the rotary control as taught by Trovato et al. into the system of Palalau et al. because this would allow the user to provide the option of selecting a program

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from among the displayed program information directly, without the need for explicitly selecting a channel number.

Response To Argument

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2-10 filed on 10/20/05 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7698. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI, FROM 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kimnhung Nguyen
January 3, 2006

AMR A. AWAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
